

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Hungary
SUBJECT Industrial and Military Potential of Scientific Research

DATE DISTR. 25 May 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF

25X1X

Q. What are the details of the Hungarian Academy of Science program to coordinate post graduate scientific training with industrial and/or military developments in the chemical field particularly?

A. 1. [redacted] at the Josef Nador Technical University in Budapest was under the supervision of Dr Josef Varga whose principal interest at that time was in the field of producing synthetic fuels from brown coal, which is one grade higher than lignite. At that time, Dr Varga, in addition to being the head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, was also the Hungarian Minister of Industry in the same cabinet with Prime Minister Teleki who committed suicide when Hungary declared war on the US. Dr Varga's son was a geologist associated with the famous Hungarian geologist, Loczi.

25X1X

2. While Dr Varga was thus engaged in correlating technical research with Hungarian industry in the fields of synthetic fuels and also aluminum, I was unaware of any position taken by the Hungarian Academy of Science in this program.

3. The Hungarian Academy of Science was begun in the middle of the 19th century as a private institution under the sponsorship of Szechenyi, who married a Vanderbilt and who gave the Academy its start by donating his personal income for one year. I was always under the impression that the Hungarian Academy of Science was more academic than political, but, of course, I am unaware of its role in Hungary today.

4. With reference to scientific research in the field of military developments, there was set up in the Josef Nador Technical University a War Technology Department maintained by the Hungarian Government in a separate building on the campus. This War Technology Department was interested in all phases of military research and development. For example, an aeronautical department with a wind tunnel was established in 1942, [redacted] an Army Captain, was engaged in aeronautical research.

25X1X

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

25X1A

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI											

SECRET

-2-

25X1X

Q. To what extent did the science faculties of the higher educational institutions participate in military and industrial projects?

A. 6. Apart from the work of Dr. Varga, as above stated, it is my impression that, in 1942 and thereabouts, the university faculties were rather less engaged in research and work for the government than is the faculty of [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X [redacted] In other words, here in the US it seems to me that the universities are working much more closely with the US Government than were the Hungarian universities with the Government of Hungary in the early 1940's. However, the Josef Nador Technical University maintained a very excellent mining and forestry department at Sopron. Moreover, the Hungarian Aluminum Company, a private concern, performed all of its laboratory work at the Josef Nador Technical University, [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X In addition, the government maintained an Institute of Technology in Budapest which was in no way connected with the Technical University and which seemed to be more in the nature of a trade or apprentice school than an advanced research center.

7. As to the status of university research today, I can only surmise. By 1948, the Hungarian Government land reform program had confiscated all estates which had hitherto been the endowed property of the universities and this had the inevitable result of making the universities completely subservient to the state and dependent thereon for support, in the same measure that the peasants have become utterly dependent upon the state with the collectivization of land. This, of course, is merely another example of the universal application of general Soviet policy.

Q. Please give details of chemical research projects at the Technical University in Budapest and at the University of Budapest.

A. 8. The two are entirely different institutions. The technical institution is the Josef Nador Technical University and the other is the old Royal University of Arts and Sciences. [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X [redacted] I know very little about the science university, but at the Josef Nador Technical University the principal chemical research projects were in synthetic fuels, aluminum and food chemistry, including preservation, canning, dehydration etc.

Q. Do you know of any Hungarian scientists or technologists who were sent to the USSR?

A. 9. I personally knew of none, even by rumor. However, I did observe large trainloads of dismantled manufacturing plants and equipment moving to the East and I assume that the personnel connected with these plants were also taken, but this is just a guess.

Q. What is the attitude of the military in Hungary toward chemical weapons?

A. 10. As an undergraduate, I took a course in chemical warfare but just for university credit. I can answer this question only by saying that the attitude of the military seemed to stress defense against chemical warfare rather than aggression. For example, we studied the principles of gas mask cannisters and things of that sort, but there seemed to be no emphasis on aggressive action in this field.

-end-

SECRET

25X1A